

United States Attorney District of New Jersey

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MASSACHUSETTS WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CONSPIRING TO DISTRIBUTE APPROXIMATELY 17 KILOS OF COCAINE BOUGHT AT NEWARK AIRPORT

TRENTON, N.J. – A Worcester, Mass., woman admitted today that she traveled to Newark, N.J., to buy approximately 17 kilos of cocaine that she planned to sell, U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

Rosa Nunez, 47, pleaded guilty to an Indictment charging her with conspiracy to possess cocaine with the intent to distribute. Nunez entered her guilty plea this afternoon before United States District Judge Peter G. Sheridan in Trenton federal court.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court:

Nunez admitted that she agreed with her husband, Enrique Nunez, and others to possess cocaine with the intent to distribute it. As part of the conspiracy, Rosa and Enrique Nunez traveled from Massachusetts to Newark Liberty International Airport in order to meet with another individual to obtain the cocaine. During the meeting, Rosa Nunez removed approximately \$41,000 from a secret compartment in the Nunez' vehicle. Enrique Nunez then provided this \$41,000 in exchange for approximately 17 kilograms of cocaine. The defendants were arrested at the airport on May 24, 2010, by special agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations (ICE HSI).

The case against Enrique Nunez remains pending.

The charge to which Rosa Nunez pleaded guilty carries a minimum potential penalty of 10 years in prison and a maximum potential penalty of life in prison and a \$4 million fine. Sentencing is scheduled for June 2, 2011.

U.S. Attorney Fishman praised special agents of ICE HSI, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Peter T. Edge in Newark, for their work in the investigation of this case.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Randall Cook of the U.S. Attorney's Office Narcotics/Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force Unit in Newark.

As for Enrique Nunez, the charge and allegations contained in the Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendant is considered innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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Defense counsel: Patrick Joyce, Esq., New York